



UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES

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Office of the Dean
School of Medicine
SOM-DPM-001-02
20 September 2001

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MEMORANDUM FOR: SOM, USUHS, Faculty

SUBJECT: Basic Life Support Certification for Medical Students

- Ref (a): USUHSR-101, 16 Feb 76, "Uniformed Services University Faculty Appointment System," Sections IV and VI.C.5.
(b): USUHS Instruction 6020, "Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification for Medical Students," dated October 7, 1988 (hereby canceled)
(c): BLS Health Care Provider Text (Course C) – American Heart Association

Enclosure: Procedures


1. Purpose and Background: This Memorandum establishes the policies and procedures to ensure Basic Life Support (BLS) provider certification by the Basic Life Support (BLS) provider certification for the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) medical students during their four-year curriculum. The students are required to have certification prior to beginning their clerkships in the third year and before the Military Emergency Medicine (MEM) in their fourth year. Current policies provide instruction during first, second, and fourth years of training, which creates unneeded redundancy. A BLS provider card is now good for two years. By providing instruction for BLS certification in the second year, the students will be current for the third and fourth year, and will renew during their internship orientations. All hospitals require that health care providers maintain current certification as BLS "C" level providers. First year USUHS medical students are not involved in clerkships or clinical rotations outside the USUHS and, therefore, are not required to take the BLS "C" level provider course as part of the Military Studies I course. Previously, certification was current for only one year which created the necessity of certification in the second and fourth year.
2. Applicability: The provisions of this Instruction apply to all USUHS first and second-year medical students.



3. Policies.

- (1) It is USUHS policy that all second year medical students must certify as BLS providers at the "C" level during the academic year. This certification is good for two years and will serve until the fourth year; and
- (2) Proof of recertification will be required before a student may begin third year clerkships

3. Effective Date: These SOM policies and guidelines are effective immediately.



Val G. Hemming, M.D.
Colonel, USAF (Retired)
Dean

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PROCEDURES

- A. It is USUHS policy that all second year medical students must certify as BLS providers at the "C" level during the academic year. This certification is good for two years and accordingly should be timed during the sophomore year to maintain certification through April/May of the senior year.
- B. The Department of Military and Emergency Medicine (MIM) will schedule BLS certification sessions for second year students. Scheduling will be coordinated by MIM in consultation with the class academic representative and the Office of Educational Affairs (OEA). These arrangements should be completed NLT 1 April of the second year's spring semester.
- C. Students may elect to certify through officially approved off-campus courses under the American Heart Association (AHA) or the American Red Cross (ARC) auspices. These courses must be at the "C" level, also known as the health care provider level. Students must show proof of certification to the Chair, MIM. The proof consists of an official certification card or a signed letter of verification from the instructor. The letter of verification must have a complete address, telephone number, and name of the affiliated AHA or ARC chapter.
- D. The MIM Department will provide a list of students certified, those students uncertified, date, and type of course to the Dean, School of Medicine (DEN), the Registrar (REG), the Associate Dean, Student Affairs (OSA), and the Assistant Dean, Clinical Sciences (ADC) two weeks prior to the beginning of the third year clerkships.
- E. Students not certified will not be allowed to begin third year clerkship until proof of BLS provider recertification is provided to the Chair, MIM.